

Walking On Water

Part 6 God – God Chose You to be In Christ

This morning we continue our journey to build our faith, to come to the place where we are able to overcome, by the power of God in Christ, to overcome the obstacles and challenges we face in this life.

We want to be all we can be in our walk with God and in order to do this we must have a solid foundation of God's love for us. His love for us directly which I shared last week, and His love for us as displayed through His Son.

I might mention that if you were unable to be here last week, there is a handout called God's Love Letter. It is a list of scriptures that speak about God's love for you. I would recommend you pick one of these up and prayerfully study these scriptures until God Himself breaks through your mind into your heart with the powerful truth of how much He loves you. Also, this sermon series, Walking on Water, a study of Ephesians, is on-line on our website. The written sermon and outlines are there for you to read, ponder and pray over.

Before we look at our passage in Ephesians look with me at **Isaiah 41:10**, **“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My right hand.”**

Do you believe this? Do you believe that you do not have to fear, or be anxious? Do you believe that God will strengthen you, help you and uphold you?

You can. You absolutely can. In fact, that is what God and Jesus is all about. He wants to show you how much He loves you and provide for you.

2 Chronicles 16:9, “For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those who heart is completely His.”

How do we have a heart that is completely God’s? Fall into His love.

Come and believe in the love God has for you and His support and blessings will pour into your life.

So many times, when a person comes to church or tries to read scripture, they come with a heart that is filled with guilt. Guilt from past sins or something you are struggling with today. Or maybe guilt from bad teaching or preaching. If you have guilt operating in your life then it is hard to hear and believe in the good news, the gospel of God and Jesus Christ and that is God loves you and has provided a way for you to fully receive His love.

Look at this next scripture. **Romans 8:1-2, “Therefore there is now no condemnation (judgement) for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”**

For too many years I would approach God and the Bible through the goggles of I am not good enough. I am guilty of sin. so God must not love me. I would read the Bible and all I saw was judgement. How God judges those who are not following Him. I missed His love. I missed of the things that are true about Him.

I missed this scripture that says that there is no, none, nada, not even a little bit of condemnation from God for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Pause

This is just a part of what it means for us to be “in Christ” To be in Christ means far more than just to be saved from eternity in hell. To be in Christ means to be in a place where everything God has for you becomes a present reality as well as a promise for the future.

Let’s get into our passage in Ephesians. Let me say this today. Please bring your Bibles with you on Sundays. I make scripture available to you in the outlines but it is good for you to become as familiar with your own Bible as possible. If you don’t have a good reading Bible talk to someone here or take one from the pew and make it your own.

Let’s begin by reading **Ephesians 1:3, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”**

Several things we see here.

1. Everything starts with God.

Blessed be God. He is the Father, Creator and Giver of all things including His Son Jesus.

2. God blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Heavenly places are things that exist in the spiritual world. I spoke with someone the other day who is studying the spiritual world. Most people do not give much thought about the parallel world around us, the spiritual world that is operating simultaneously around us.

There is spiritual activity occurring all around us all the time. Angels are working, the Holy Spirit is working, Satan and his crew are working, Jesus and God are working.

There are battles, there is a war but there are also all kinds of blessings that are flowing from heaven into our lives. They are conveyed to us from heaven through the spiritual realm and as some of them reach us they convert to the physical realm. They become a physical reality.

But the third thing we see in this scripture is all things,

3. All spiritual blessings are conveyed to us through Christ.

If you read through the first chapter of Ephesians you will soon see that every spiritual blessing God wants us to have, they are conveyed to us through Christ.

Look with me at an overview of chapter one.

Verse 4. We were chosen in Christ

Verse 4. We were chosen to be holy and blameless in Christ

Verse 5. We were predestined to be adopted by God in Christ

Verse 6. We have received God's grace (favor) in the Beloved (In Christ)

Verse 7. We have forgiveness in Christ.

Verse 13. In Christ we were sealed with the Holy Spirit

Verse 18. In Christ we have the calling of God upon us

Verse 18. In Christ we are His inheritance

Verse 19. In Christ there is surpassing power from Heaven for us

In Christ there is quite a bit happening isn't there?

Look at this next passage.

Ephesians 1:19b-23. "These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His (God's) might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named,

not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Last week we looked at the love God has for us. There is passage after passage that speaks of the love God has for us and I would highly recommend you search the scriptures, search the Psalms, search the Old and New Testament, looking for the passages that speak of God’s love for His people.

But here we see that His love is conveyed through one vessel and that vessel is His Son Jesus Christ.

Time and time again throughout the scriptures we see that the only way the world is blessed, the only way the world is saved is through God’s Son Jesus. God turned this world over to His Son Jesus.

Everything comes through Christ.

4. Jesus was given the **authority**, the ability to rule and reign the earth and the heavens by God.

Quickly scan these scriptures.

Matthew 11:27, “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father...”

Matthew 28:18, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

John 3:35, “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.”

Colossians 2:10, “and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.”

1 Peter 3:22, “...(Jesus) who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers have been subjected to Him.”

This is just a sampling of the scriptures that speak of the authority Jesus was given.

Now when we consider our examples of authority today, it leaves a bad taste in our mouth. We have seen some many examples of bad authority. People in positions of authority who abused the position of authority they were in-trusted with. From Hollywood, to our governments at national, regional and local levels. To policeman, coaches and teachers. There is hardly an occupation of authority in this country which has not been tainted by abuse of the position.

Because of this many people no longer trust authority. I read the following 2014 Gallup pole on where people’s trust factors lie.

Slide only:

74% of the people trust our military
62% of the people trust small business
53% of the people trust the police
45% of the people trust the church
34% of the people trust medical institutions
30% of the people trust the Supreme Court
29% trust the Presidency
26% trust public schools
26% trust banks
21% trust big businesses
18% trust news/media/internet
7% trust Congress

These are pretty tough but understandable trust issues aren't they? Because we have seen so many people in these positions of authority fall because of their lack of integrity and character, we struggle with accepting anyone or anything that smacks of authority.

We can even have trust issues with God and Jesus.

But I want to share with you this morning that Jesus handled His authority in a much different way.

Philippians 2:5-10, "...Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,"

As the Son of God, Jesus had authority as a Son. But because of His love for His Father, because He saw the love His Father had for all humanity and because of the love Jesus also had for all of humanity, Jesus used the authority He was given in a different, a very different way.

5. Jesus used His authority to serve all humanity, to the point of death, even death on the cross.

Back to our passages in Ephesians 1

Because of Christ...

Verse 3. Because of Christ...We were blessed with every spiritual blessing from heaven

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Verse 19. Because of Christ...there is surpassing power from Heaven for us

Church...

Isaiah 41:10, "Do not fear, for Christ is with you; do not anxiously look about you, for Christ is your Shepherd. Christ will strengthen you, surely He will help you, Surely He will uphold you with His right hand." (Paraphrase)

I have much more to say about who Christ is to us and what it means to be in Christ. But let's pray and give thanks for what we know thus far.

Let's pray

**Walking on Water
Part 6 – In God's Love, He Chose Us to Be in Christ**

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**How do we have a heart that is completely Gods?
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- 1. Everything _____ with God**
- 2. God blessed us with _____ spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.**
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